

Teen Court



Portage Township Schools are Making it Happen!



WE ARE Portage Township School Corporation, located in Northwest Porter County, Indiana on the tip of Lake Michigan. Portage Township Schools (PTS) is comprised of 8 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and 1 high school.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES include over 7,600 students of diverse socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds attending our schools. Our free/reduced lunch rate is approximately 60%.

OUR TEACHERS service the needs of our students along with the support staff personnel throughout Portage Township Schools. PTS employs approximately 1,300 dedicated employees with 420 of those being teachers.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

is Teen Court, a community-based partnership that provides an alternative to traditional disciplinary action designed to increase the positive outcomes for our at-risk youth as they transition into adulthood. The ultimate goal of Teen Court is to engage at-risk students through prevention strategies that foster positive youth development in an environment that is supported by internal and external stakeholders within our community.

OUR STEPS

The design of this community partnership is intended to educate our students about the judicial process. A defendant in Teen Court is accountable to the community and becomes accountable to his/her peers, as well as the criminal justice system. This program enhances our students' respect for the judicial system and allows the defendant to keep a clear record by upholding their sentence and meeting the terms outlined by their peers. Each participant in Teen Court, whether a defendant, juror, teen attorney, or adult volunteer, is involved in a positive, meaningful way that provides opportunities for students to learn from their mistakes and engage in better decision making for their future.

IN OUR OWN WORDS "Zero-tolerance policies have lead to larger numbers of youth being suspended or expelled with no positive impact on school safety," says Dr. Richard Weigel, Superintendent.

According to Teen Court Coordinator, Mrs. Porter-Phillips, "Teen Court provides opportunities for at-risk students to be supported in an effort to impact their ability to make better decisions in their future. The research proves that prevention strategies work and keep our students in school."

PHS Principal, Mr. Gill, states, "Teen Court offers Portage High School principals alternatives to suspension."

For more information about our school corporation, please contact our Superintendent, Dr. Richard Weigel.
email: richard.weigel@portage.k12.in.us or visit our website: www.portage.k12.in.us.